

Pony Express Service Begins



On April 3, 1860, the first Pony Express Rider was dispatched from St. Joseph, Missouri. Thus began a great American experiment in which riders would attempt to cover nearly 2,000 miles in a matter of 10 days. To reach Sacramento, California in this short time required that riders, carrying heavy bags of mail, change horses at 153 stations across the country. Braving attacks from hostile Indians and the perils of unknown country, the final relay rider reached Sacramento on schedule. He was greeted by bands, speeches, and cheering crowds inaugurating a colorful chapter in the history of American communications.

The historic U.S. mint stamp on this Panel portrays the first Pony Express Rider on his journey from St. Joseph to Sacramento. It was issued in 1960.



St. Joseph, Missouri—April 3, 1860